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REPENTANCE - IN THE CHURCH

(IOC Kamareddy 1994 - EKB)

1. **Heb 6:1-3** describes the foundations that need to be laid so that we can build a strong Christian life. The No 1 foundation that is mentioned in this passage is Repentance from dead works.
2. Some years ago, I watched the foundations being put down deep for a new high-rise building in the city where I live. They were massive. After a while the structure above the ground level began to rise up and the foundation piles were no longer visible. Now the completed building is 20-30 storeys and filled with offices. The foundations are still operating, 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. So it is with the foundation of repentance from dead works, *Heb 6:1*. It is one of the six foundations we require for successful Christian living.

When we become Christians there is a massive change and turn around in our life. This is called “repentance”. E.g. *Ac 9:1-20* where Saul, the murderer of Christians became the preacher of Christ. On the road to Damascus Saul met Jesus and the encounter totally changed the way he thought, spoke and acted.

3. **Repentance is the point at which I make Jesus Christ the No 1 person in my life and, in surrendering everything to His authority and control**, I turn away from all the activities I am involved in which do not please Him. When Zacchaeus met Jesus, his dishonest tax-collecting ceased and he became honest, just, and prepared to repay those he had cheated, *Lk 19:1-10*.
4. Two things brought salvation into Zacchaeus and his house. The first was repentance from dead works of sin, dishonesty and cheating, and the second was faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and God to whom he surrendered all things.

Repentance and faith go together but without repentance, faith is not possible. There has to be a turning away from what is evil in the eyes of the Lord Jesus Christ before we can receive His blessing and goodness.

5. After we have been saved for some time, **repentance is still an on-going foundation** of spiritual progress in the Christian life. The Holy Spirit comes and convicts us of some action, word, attitude or thought that is not right in God’s sight. At that point our spiritual progress stops until we humble ourselves and repent. This involves confession of our sin. Do not “save face” but humble yourself and confess your fault to God first, and then to the person you have wronged. Ask for forgiveness. Say, “What I did to you was wrong, I should not have done it, please forgive me.”
Jam 1:16 – “Confess your faults to one another, and pray for one another that you may be healed.”
6. *Mat 5:23,24*. One day the Lord convicted me about a brother in ministry of whom I had spoken critically to several people. The Lord said to me, “you have unfinished business with.....!” Through humbling self, confession and asking for forgiveness the offence was cleared away and we are restored into ministry together. Praise God!
7. *Mk 11:25,26*. It is important to **repent** from unforgiveness, bitterness, resentment and hatred. Offences come from time to time and it is essential to release the person

responsible from our judgment, to hand the problem over to the Lord and pray for God's blessing to be upon them, *Mat 5:44*.

8. Three of the most important words in life are, "I am sorry." When we have done something, or said something that has hurt or offended someone around us, **repentance** is essential.
9. **Repentance** is based on humility, openness, honesty and a refusal to allow things we have done, which are wrong before the Lord, to be ignored.
10. God says that if we hold on to sin in our heart the Lord will not hear our prayer, *Ps 66:18*. Also if we cover our sin we will not prosper, *Pro 28:13*. Praise God, if we **confess and turn away from them, (repent)**, we will have mercy, *Pro 28:13*.
11. In *Ac 3:19*, as Peter preached the Gospel he urged the hearers to **repent** and be converted, that their sins would be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. Today, as believers, whenever we **repent**, there is a fresh cleansing away of sin and a release of refreshing from the Lord.

MAINTAINING STRONG VICTORIOUS FAITH

1. Without faith it is impossible to please God, *Heb 11:6*.
Strong, aggressive, enduring faith is necessary in establishing, building and pastoring a church for Jesus. Unbelief, fear, doubt, uncertainty will bring defeat and loss.
2. Determine, with God's help, to **maintain fulness of faith**, power and the Holy Spirit, *Ac 6:5,8*. This is God's will for you. Doubt, fear and unbelief do not please him. Choose faith now, *Josh 24:15, Jam 1:6*.
3. Faith is knowing that **your need has already been supplied by the Lord Jesus Christ** through His death and resurrection, and as you ask in His Name it is given to you. **Faith is believing that He's done it, and it's done now.** *Rom 8:32, Jn 16:23, Jn 14:13, Mk 11:24, Ps 34:10, 1Jn 5:14,15, Jam 1:5,6, Mat 21:22, Phil 4:19*.
4. There are, it is said, 3000 promises in the Word which are "exceedingly great" and "precious", through which we are partakers of God's own divine nature, *2Pet 1:3,4*. Every single promise is yes and amen to the glory of God by us, *2Cor 1:20*. "Has He said and will He not do it? Has He spoken and will it not come to pass?" *Num 23:19*. Faith inherits the promises of God, *Heb 6:12,15*. Faithful is He who has promised, *Heb 10:23, 1Thes 5:24*.
5. **Faith is: knowing God's Word, believing God's Word, confessing aloud God's Word, acting on God's Word.**
Because our knowledge of God's Word is growing as we read it and meditate upon it, so our level of faith is increasing, *2Thes 1:3*. The Holy Spirit opens our understanding to the Word as we read it and faith from God enters our heart, *Rom 10:17*. This faith we have is God's faith given to us, *Rom 12:3, Eph 2:8, Heb 12:2*. It is supernatural and within it is the life and power of God to bring it to pass.

Lk 1:37(AMP) says, “no word from God shall be without power.” That means that **the word of faith God gives to us carries the power of its own fulfilment** and will come to pass as we believe, *Lk 1:45*.

6. Do not stagger at the promise of God through unbelief but be strong in faith giving glory to God, being fully persuaded that what God has promised, He is able also to perform, *Rom 4:20,21*.
7. The call of God upon your life into the work of the ministry is faith from God placed into your heart by the Holy Spirit. Make a note of the scriptures, which the Lord has given you for the ministry and for your personal life and family. **Faith confesses, these scriptures out aloud to God** in prayers of thanksgiving and praise, **refusing to back off**, or give up, knowing that the Lord Jesus has given them and that in due course they will appear, *Mk 11:24*. God’s Word will not return void, *Is 55:11*. His Word in you will accomplish what He has said as you believe and hold faith.
8. The centurion said, “Speak the Word only and my servant shall be healed.” *Mat 8:8*. He knew and believed that when the Lord has spoken concerning the meeting of a need it is done. **Once the Lord has spoken His Word by the Spirit into your heart it is yours**. If you will hold faith and a positive confession you will receive the provision, *Lk 7:7*.
9. Faith is the power to live for God. God is willing, He is able, and He will do it as we believe, *Mat 8:3*, *Mk 9:22*, *Mk 9:23*. There has to be the line of faith from the Lord to the believer for His grace of salvation to flow, *Eph 2:8*.
10. There was a man called Geoff who tried frequently and earnestly to get saved. Day after day he asked Jesus to come into his heart and save him, to make him born again, and to give him eternal life, but every morning he awoke, he knew he was not saved. Geoff’s problem was that he did not have faith. He did not know and believe God’s Word. One evening I met him and explained to him, *Rev 3:20*, where Jesus promises to come into the life of each person who opens the door to him. I led him to ask Jesus to come in and save him once more, but this time, to thank and praise the Lord for doing so on the basis of the promise of *Rev 3:20*. When I called to see him a week later he was glowing with the presence of Jesus in his heart, and was thanking and praising Jesus for saving him.
11. There was a man called Peter in a fishing boat far from land. The wind was blowing, the sea was rough, but Jesus was standing above the waves some distance from the boat. Jesus spoke a word to Peter, and that word was “Come!” This word “come” was God given faith, imparted into Peter’s heart, and Peter stepped out of the boat and walked on the **WORD** of faith to come to Jesus over the water, *Mat 14:25-29*. Whatever He says to you, you can do, and it comes to pass as you keep your eyes on Him and believe, *Heb 12:2*, *Mk 10:27*, *Mk 9:23*.
12. Faith knows that God did not send Jesus to condemn the world but to save the world, *Jn 3:17*. Faith knows that God loves us and comes boldly unto the throne of grace for His mercy and grace in the time of need, *Heb 4:16*. The only time Jesus went outside the land of Israel in His years of ministry is recorded in *Mat 15:21-28*. There, a non Israelite lady came to Him. She was a Canaanite, a Greek Syro-Phoenician, *Mk 7:26*, and she cried out to Him as, “Lord, Son of David,” to deliver her demon possessed daughter. Jesus refused to answer her because she was not an Israelite. Jesus’ disciples asked Him to cure her daughter (implied), and send her away,

but His reply to them was that He was only sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. After these two knock-backs, it is surprising that she did not give up, but she didn't. She came again, worshipped Him, and said, "Lord, help me!" Jesus' reply to her was a third knock-back when He said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and give it to the little dogs." (Gentiles were "dogs" to the Israelites and her daughter was a "little dog.") Well, would you keep pressing into the Lord after three knock-backs? She did. She said, "True, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their master's table." Jesus' reward for her persistence was, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be unto you as you desire." Her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Do not give up on your faith. Keep pressing in to God. In Jesus you are God's son, you are God's daughter, and all His blessings belong to you now.

WATER BAPTISM

1. The risen Lord Jesus gave water baptism a place of major importance in the Great Commission, *Mat 28:18-20*.
 "All authority has been given to Me....."
 "Go therefore and make disciples....."
 "Baptising them in the Name....."
 "Teaching them to observe all....."
 "Lo, I am with you always....."
2. In *Mk 16:16* Jesus declares baptism as a part of our salvation. "He who believes and is baptised will be saved."
3. Baptism is something more than a ceremony we perform after a person commits their life to Christ. Powerful spiritual issues are settled in water baptism.
4. In conversion to Christ the Father delivers us from the authority of darkness and translates us over into the Kingdom of His Son, *Col 1:13*. Water baptism is a part of this total separation from the influence and control of satan. **In water baptism the powers of the kingdom of darkness are broken from our lives** and we are set free into the Kingdom of Christ.
5. *Romans 6:4* is a key verse in understanding water baptism. In baptism we are **identifying with Christ in His death and being raised up by the power of God to walk in newness of life**. *Gal 3:27* says, "we are baptised into Christ and we are putting on Christ."
6. At this point of baptism **the old nature of sin that we have all been born with is shattered to pieces** and the power of sinful habits to control us is broken, *Rom 6:1-14*. "Know" this to be true, *v6*, "reckon" on being dead to sin and alive to God, *v11*, and refuse to allow sin to reign any longer, *v12*. Choose to put off the old sinful man and to put on the new man which is created in righteousness and true holiness, *Eph 4:22-24*.
7. **The other half of water baptism is baptism with the Holy Spirit**, because it is the power of the Spirit that makes the truths of water baptism real and effective in us. It is the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus that sets us free from the Law of sin and death, *Rom 8:2*. So teach those coming for water baptism to reach out and receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit also.

8. In *Ac 2:38*, Peter preached “repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, for the promise is to you and your children.”
9. Water baptism and baptism with the Holy Spirit are themes of the book of Acts. *Ac 2:38-41, Ac 8:12,15-17, Ac 8:35-38, Ac 9:17,18, Ac 10:44-48, Ac 19:1-6*. Notice in *Ac 19:1-6* that when Paul found disciples in Ephesus who had not received the Holy Spirit, it was because they had not been baptised into the name of the Lord Jesus. Once they were baptised into the name of the Lord Jesus then they were filled with the Holy Spirit.
10. When water baptism is understood and entered into by faith, through the power of the Holy Spirit, it is the point at which the believer is set free from the power of the old sinful nature. As well as this, the powers and influences of the evil spirits of the kingdom of darkness, and the world system are cut off.

Repentance from sin is the first major step. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is next. Then water baptism and the baptism with the Holy Spirit bring a believer to liberty, victory and power in Christ.

11. When baptising a new convert to Christ, work carefully through full repentance from every sin and a full cleansing in the blood of Jesus. Lead them into a place of strong faith dependence on the Lord and His Word. Encourage them to receive every benefit of water baptism and to expect to receive the baptism with the Spirit. Wait on the Lord with the other elders, praying over the person baptised with the laying on of hands, **until the Holy Spirit releases strong prophetic utterances for them**. These presbyterial prophecies should be recorded as they will reveal God’s way ahead and the main thrust of ministry for the one baptised. They will also give great encouragement.
12. One Old Testament type of water baptism and baptism with the Spirit is in *Ex 14:21-31*, when the children of Israel passed through the Red Sea. *1Cor 10:1,2* tells us that they were all baptised unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea. At this point, their slavery and destruction in Egypt ceased, and the authority and power of Pharaoh and his armies over them came to an end.

In *Ex 15:13*, it says that the Lord in His mercy led them forth, the people He had redeemed, and guided them in His strength unto His Holy Habitation or dwelling place.

1. **God is the source of our supply**, not man or organisations. We are His servants, sent by Him to do His work, and He has promised to supply **all our needs** according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus, *Phil 4:19*.

No-one goes to war at his own expense, *1Cor 9:7*. Those who plant a vineyard are to eat of its fruit, *1Cor 9:7, 2Tim 2:6*. He who tends a flock is to drink the milk of the flock, *1Cor 9:7*. You shall not muzzle the ox that treads the grain, *1Cor 9:9*. God says these things to us so that those who labour in the Gospel should expect to have their needs met, *1Cor 9:10*. The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should live from the Gospel, *1Cor 9:14*.

2. **Pray in faith with thanksgiving each day for the full release of your supply**, material, financial, physical, mental and spiritual. This is God's will. Expect to receive, *Ps 62:5, Ps 27:13, Phil 4:19*. Be specific and ask for the actual amount of finances or produce, or the thing you need, and believe God for it to be released to you. It is God's will for your need to be met.
3. Let those who are taught the Word of God share in all good things with those who teach, *Gal 6:6*. This includes food, finances, hospitality, kindness. Those who labour in word and doctrine are worthy of double honour, *1Tim 5:17*, or a full provision of their needs.
4. Jesus taught His disciples, whom He sent out to preach the Gospel, that their needs would be met as they went, *Mat 10:10*. This applied to the twelve and also to the seventy, *Lk 10:7*. In *1Tim 5:18*, this is also mentioned for those who minister in the church. "The labourer is worthy of his hire."
5. In the initial stages of planting a church in a new village, the pastor often has to work with his hands to support his wife and family as well as care for the church. **When the principles of tithing are established** there will be sufficient income in the church to support the Pastor. As the church provides support for the Pastor, he can reduce the days of his manual labour.

Paul and his fellow workers often worked with their hands to support themselves while establishing a church. *1Thes 2:9, 2Thes 3:8, Ac 18:3, Ac 20:34*.

6. The biggest danger is to get your eyes off the Lord, whose Name is Jehovah Jireh - the Lord our Provider, and on to man. Once we start looking to man to supply our needs we are not standing in faith and will soon get into difficulties.
7. **Establish the principle and habit of tithing to the Lord's work yourself in all that you receive**. Give to the Lord what belongs to Him and He has said that He will open the windows of heaven and pour out for you such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. The Lord will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, *Mal 3:8-11*.
8. The Word clearly instructs us that **giving is the key to receiving**. "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be put into your bosom," *Lk 6:38*. There is one who scatters, yet increases more, and there is one who withholds more than is right and it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, *Pro 11:24,25*.

9. If we sow sparingly we will reap sparingly and if we sow bountifully we will reap bountifully, *2Cor 9:6*.
But let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly, or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver, *2Cor 9:7*.
And God is able to make all grace abound towards you, that you always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. *2Cor 9:8*.
10. In *Ruth 2:12*, the redeemer, Boaz said to Ruth, “The Lord repay your work and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel under whose wings you have come for refuge.”
11. *Deut 8:18*. You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the power to get wealth that He might establish His covenant. The finances the Lord gives to us are to be used to His glory.
12. *Mk 10:29,30*. Many of us have left house, brothers, sisters, father, mother, wife and children, or lands for the Lord’s sake and the gospel. The Lord has promised that we will receive a hundred fold now, of houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and lands with persecutions - and in the age to come life eternal.

HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD

(IOC Kamareddy 1994 - EKB)

Reading: *1Sam 30:1-8*.

1. Hearing the voice of the Lord is as important to us as it was for David.
2. David had the ephod and with it the Urim and the Thummim, *Ex 28:30*, – “lights” – “perfection” - which gave guidance from God, but today we have been given spiritual eyes and ears to hear the voice of the Shepherd, *Mat 13:16, Jn 10:27, Jn 8:12*.
3. As believers, and those called into ministry, **we have been programmed to hear the voice of the Lord**. We are His sheep and we hear His voice. He also knows our voice and we follow Him.
4. It is important to hear His voice everyday and to record what He is saying.
5. As we hear His voice speaking to us, we are receiving His life. **His life comes to us as we hear His Word**. “Man shall live by hearing every word that comes from the Lord’s mouth,” *Mat 4:4*. Jesus said, “the words I speak to you are Spirit and Life,” *Jn 6:63*. “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of the Lord,” *Rom 10:17*. “Incline your ear, come to Me, hear and your soul shall live,” *Is 55:3*.
6. When Martha objected to Mary sitting at Jesus’ feet and listening to His Word, Jesus’ reply was, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things, **but one thing is needed**, and Mary has chosen that good part and it will not be taken away from her,” *Lk 10:38-42*.

In this busy life of ours one thing that we cannot afford to miss out on **is spending time each day sitting-at Jesus' feet and listening** to His living, powerful, (*Heb 4:12*), life-giving Word, *Jn 6:63*.

7. God speaks to us from His Word as we read it, *Ps 119:105, 130*, as we pray, *Jer 33:3*, as we keep alert and wide-awake to the Spirit, by preaching, by prophecy, by testimony, and by dreams and visions.
8. The time to hear God is in the **early morning**, when you arise to pray and read His Word. It is His time to speak to you. He will cause you to hear. *Is 50:4, Ps 63:1, Ps 119:147, Mk 1:35*. **Ask, Expect, Believe, Receive.**
9. Record in a note-book what the Lord says to you. Believe what He has said to you, *Is 7:9, Lk 1:45*. Confess it out aloud during the day, with praise. Act on it if action is possible, *Jam 1:22*.
10. What the Lord says to you is exactly the **Living Word** to meet your need.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MINISTRY OF THE PASTOR'S WIFE

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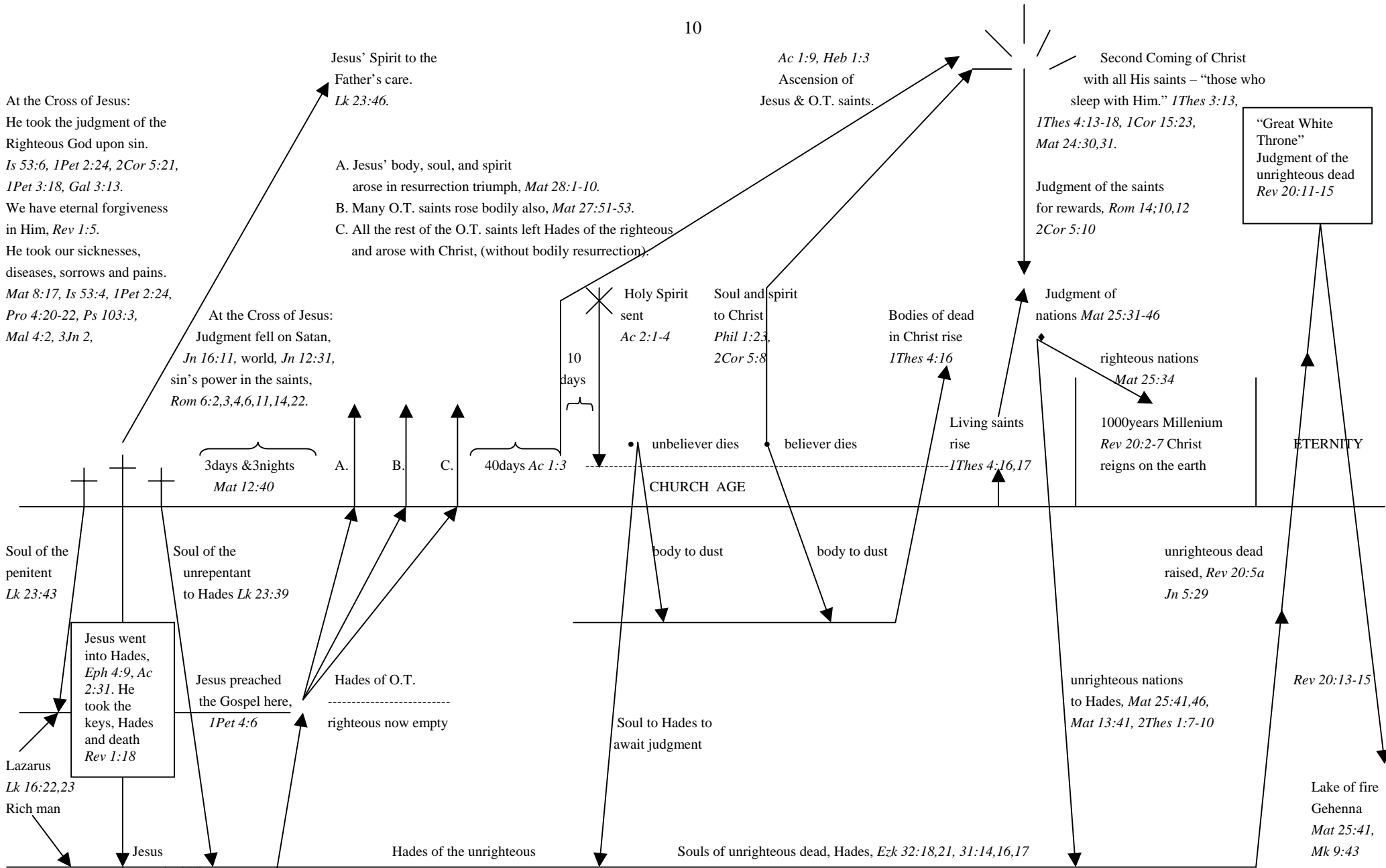
When God calls a man into ministry He also calls his wife to stand beside him in the work. *Ac 18:26,2,18, Rom 16:3-5, 1Cor 16:19*.

As God gives gifts of ministry to the man, He also equips his wife with special gifts and abilities so that she is able to be an effective helper alongside her husband, *Gen 2:18*. God calls the woman to be the keeper of the home, the mother of the children and the heart of the family first and foremost, and in this she will be fruitful and greatly blessed by the Lord. *Ps 128:3, Ps 127:3, Pro 31:10-31, Tit 2:5, Pro 14:1, 1Tim 5:14*.

But as well as her ministry in the home, the Pastor's wife will be equipped by God to encourage, inspire, caution and strengthen her husband. God will give her special gifts such as, discernment, wisdom, revelation, insight and abilities to teach other women and children. *Tit 2:3,4,5*. In some cases the woman will have definite leadership gifts and ministry gifts of prophecy, healing, preaching, teaching and counselling, *Rom 16:1,2, Rom 16:3,4,5,6*.

It is very important for the pastor-husband to highly value his wife's ministry and gifts from God, to recognise them and to give them opportunity to operate and function. The wife's gifts will fit in with those of the husband's, and together they will be a mighty, powerful team for God.

One key to the development of the unity of the husband's and wife's ministry is to pray together every day, to share the Word of God, and to spend time talking openly and honestly about every aspect of life as often as possible. This communication is an essential key to flowing together in the ministry.



Resurrection of the Dead and Eternal Judgment – Heb 6:1-3 - EKB – March 1981